



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

78

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President
The White House

SUBJECT : Briefing of the Russell Subcommittee,
9 January 1967

I thought you would be interested in having a brief report on my appearance before the CIA Subcommittees of Senate Armed Services and Senate Appropriations on Monday. Ten Senators were present for the session which lasted about two hours and a half. The regular members in attendance were Senators Richard B. Russell, Carl Hayden, John Stennis, Stuart Symington, Margaret Chase Smith, Milton R. Young, and Karl E. Mundt. In addition, Senator Russell had invited from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Senators Fulbright, Hickenlooper and Mansfield. Senator Russell specifically indicated that these Senators should feel free to ask any questions about the information presented or Agency activities.

Senator Russell had asked me beforehand to make brief statements on several subjects of particular interest to him and his group. Accordingly, I spoke briefly on Soviet military developments, including the unresolved problem within the intelligence community of the exact status of the Anti-Ballistic Missile deployment program. Next, I set forth our information on Chinese Communist activities in the advanced weapons field, and some speculative thoughts on the meaning of the present turmoil within the Chinese political leadership. I followed this with a brief resume of statements regarding negotiations which have been made by the Hanoi leadership over the past year, indicating their unchanging and negative stance. I concluded with a brief account of the Rhodesian question and the related problem of sanctions.

After each of these statements, Senator Russell asked a question and invited the others present to do so as well. Most of these questions sought only an elucidation of the facts. Senator Mansfield asked about the present deployment of forces along the Sino-Soviet border and any evidences we had of clashes there between the Russians and the Chinese. I replied to this that we had no indications of anything other

than occasional skirmishes between small groups. Other Senators asked questions about civilian casualties in Vietnam, Communist infiltration into the South, progress in pacification, and the advances made by the constituent assembly.

Several questions were broader in scope. For example, Senator Fulbright inquired about the effectiveness of the bombing in North Vietnam, in response to which I gave him the conclusions of the latest CIA assessment. Senator Mansfield expressed some surprise that recent statements by Hanoi were not in my view less rigid than formerly and sought more specific assurances, which I provided in detail. Senator Symington cited my description of the limited Soviet ABM deployment around Moscow and asked whether Secretary McNamara had not suggested a much broader deployment. I was able to provide appropriate clarification.

The tone of the discussion throughout was thoughtful, businesslike, and cordial.



Richard Helms
Director

STAT